



# ***Iowa Outdoors***

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**  
**[www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com)**

**[www.iowanaturestore.com](http://www.iowanaturestore.com)**

Editor: Mick Klemesrud, 515/281-8653  
[mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us)

\*\*\*\*\*

**July 19, 2005**

1. Hunters in Iowa Harvested More Than 750,000 Pheasants in 2004
2. Herring to Lead DNR Conservation and Recreation Division
3. Tracking Flathead Catfish – by Joe Wilkinson [Hold until July 21]
4. Becoming an Outdoors Woman Set for Sept. 9 – 11
5. Iowa Fishing Report [attached]

## **HUNTERS IN IOWA HARVESTED MORE THAN 750,000 PHEASANTS IN 2004**

BOONE – An estimated 756,184 rooster pheasants were harvested in Iowa during the 2004 season, a 30 percent decline from the 1,080,466 harvested in 2003. The number of resident and nonresident hunters also declined 8 percent and 7 percent, respectively.

Todd Bogenschutz, wildlife biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, said for the sixth year in a row, Iowa cannot claim bragging rights as the top pheasant state. South Dakota led the nation with a harvest of 1.6 million roosters.

“This past seasons harvest was 27 percent below our 10-year average and 40 percent below the historical average of 1.27 million roosters,” he said. “This downward trend can be linked back to when entire farm fields enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program were returned to production in the mid 1990s. We lost a lot of really good nesting habitat, and habitat that gave pheasants protection from the extremes of Iowa weather and from predators.

“We had fewer hunters because of the results from our August roadside survey. The survey showed fewer birds and we can trace that to weather impacts during the nesting season,” Bogenschutz said. “We had been in a cycle of cool wet springs and had a hard winter in 2000 – 2001 that really impacted our pheasant population, but we bounced back and had a decent harvest in 2003. So far this year, our pheasant population is in pretty good shape and our harvest should bounce back again.”

Quail hunters harvested an estimated 68,256 quail, which is a 40 percent decrease from the 114,067 estimate in 2003. Most of the quail harvest was in southern and east central Iowa.

Partridge hunters harvested an estimated 12,535 partridge, a 53 percent increase from 2003. Cottontail rabbit hunters harvested nearly 260,000 rabbits in 2004, a 6 percent increase from 2003.

**For more information, contact Bogenschutz at 515-432-2823.**

###

## **HERRING TO LEAD DNR CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION**

DES MOINES – Ken Herring was appointed to lead the Conservation and Recreation division of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources on July 1, succeeding Mike Brandrup, who headed the division since 2002.

Herring, 53, has been with the DNR since 1976. He joined the Black Hawk Wildlife Unit as a wildlife technician and worked in various positions with the wildlife bureau and in land acquisition. Herring was a wildlife biologist for 18 years, and has spent the last five years as the wildlife management supervisor responsible for oversight and management of public lands.

Herring has a B.S. in fish and wildlife management from Iowa State University. As a student, he worked for the DNR in parks, fisheries and wildlife bureaus. Herring and his wife Carma, of Earlham, have three sons.

###

[Hold until July 21]

## **TRACKING FLATHEAD CATFISH**

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

As we pushed upstream, fish 1702 was talking to us. Just above the new ramp on the Iowa River at River Junction, our radio receiver on board sounded clear, crisp ‘beeps’ to tell us we were closing in on the five-pound flathead catfish.

Steering the boat toward a jumble of trees on an inside bend, Department of Natural Resources fisheries technician Greg Simmons was confident. “It’s in that logjam. As we get closer, the beeping will get louder,” said Simmons. Unplugging the electronic

box from the mast, Simmons held it over the side of the boat. The beeps were loud and sharp. “It’s right below us,” offered Simmons. “1702 was tagged August 20 of last year. The last time we ‘saw’ it was this May (probably moving up from its wintering area) just above the mouth of the Cedar River. So it’s moved up about ten miles since then.”

As Simmons recorded depth and other details, it was easy to see why the fish was here. On the inside bend there would be a couple nice holes. The tangle of flood-carried trunks, stumps and limbs created blocked the current, creating a calm area, good habitat for smaller river fish...and the flathead catfish that would swallow them. Across the river, the outside bend showed sloughed-away dirt banks, a reminder of the changing nature of the stream and the multitude of organisms it supports.

Crews last year caught and implanted radio-transmitters in 35 flatheads. This trip was just for telemetry. “The receiver here will pick up signals from the fish,” explains Simmons. “Each one is assigned a different frequency. If the scanner doesn’t pick up a frequency in the two-second interval, it moves to the next one.” It had been a pretty good day. Starting at the Burlington Street Dam in Iowa City on this day, Simmons had located 14 ‘electronic flatheads’ by the time he pulled out at River Junction, east of Riverside. DNR biologist Greg Gelwicks had started *there* and was monitoring downstream. The research crew, out of Manchester, spent the night and completed their run down to the Mississippi the next day.

On a different trip, they might electroshock the same stretches; a method that brings up *smaller* flatheads. Or, they would set underwater hoop nets, especially during spawning, to get more of the monsters. They need to see a representative sampling of the flatheads to gauge just how many are out there. Concerns from anglers not seeing as many big flatheads prompted the multi-stream survey. As the top predator, a balanced flathead population is critical to a river’s overall health. And if you’ve ever wrestled a five--or 45--pound flathead to the bank, you know why many river anglers prefer them.

Similar work is underway in the North Raccoon, Des Moines and Cedar River corridors in Iowa. That includes some attention to tributaries. Just prior to pushing off, Gelwicks talked by phone with a woman who had caught one of the transmitter-fitted fish on the English River, near North English. Though there is nothing illegal with taking one home—they know of four caught--biologists urge anglers to contact them to pin down location, movement and other data. Plus, they’ll stop searching for that frequency.

In its second year now, the study is showing that habitat is critical...and that fish will move to get to that habitat. For instance, why did 1702 swim past 10 miles of the Iowa River to get back to that particular logjam above River Junction? “A fish might do well for ten months out of the year but if it lacks critical habitat, an over-wintering area for instance, it is going to have to (search for it),” cautions Simmons. “We just don’t know a lot about flatheads on our interior streams. We are looking at how far they move at different times of the year. We want to learn about population, growth rates, too; some simple parameters to tell us more.”

And through the implanted radio transmitters, the catfish are talking.

### **Farm Ponds; Orders Being Taken**

Farm ponds offer some of the best fishing in Iowa and with 80,000 ponds dotting Iowa, you're never far from several of them. A well-managed pond, though, takes some work and a little planning. Landowners expecting fish from the DNR for stocking their new or renovated ponds need to get busy in the next couple weeks to ensure 2005 delivery.

Pond owners face an August 15 deadline for having their application in the hands of the fisheries management biologist in their area. Copies of the DNR's Farm Pond booklet and the application for fish are available from each fisheries office or on-line at <http://www.iowadnr.com/fish/programs/farmpond.html>

Deliveries of bluegill--500-1,000 bluegill per acre--and channel catfish--about 100 per acre are made in late September or early October to specified locations. Next June, largemouth bass, about 70 to the acre, will come. Basic criteria for the stocking program require a pond of at least a half acre in size, eight feet in depth, fenced to exclude livestock and with a 60 foot buffer strip to improve water quality. The DNR stocks about 500 ponds each year. There is a \$25/acre stocking fee. The pond should provide keeper-sized fish in two to three years. There is NO requirement that pond owners accepting DNR hatchery fish let others fish on the property.

Pond owners are urged to talk with their fisheries biologist before tinkering with the bluegill, catfish, largemouth bass combination, as other species of fish could upset the balance in the pond.

###

### **BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN SET FOR SEPT. 9 - 11**

Becoming an Outdoors Woman is an international program aimed primarily at women, but is an opportunity for anyone 18 years and older to learn outdoor skills usually associated with hunting and fishing, but useful for many outdoor pursuits. A 2 1/2 day workshop will be held September 9-11, 2005 at the Springbrook Conservation Education Center, approximately 1 1/2 hours west of Des Moines.

A registration form is available on-line.

For more information, contact Julie Sparks at 515-281-6159.

###

# ***IOWA FISHING REPORT***

**For the week of July 19, 2005**

**www.iowadnr.com**

**For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.**

## **Southwest**

**Three Mile** (Union): Channel catfish can be caught using dip baits, night crawlers, or crayfish. Bluegill and crappie can be caught by drift fishing through open areas, and over the brush piles.

**Green Valley** (Union): Some nice sized channel catfish are biting on liver or dip baits. Largemouth bass can be caught deep around structure. Some bluegill can be caught using night crawlers around deep structure.

**Fogle Lake** (Ringgold): Channel catfish can be caught using liver or dip baits in the riprap areas.

**Little River** (Decatur): Some bluegill and crappie can be caught by drift fishing night crawlers in 12 to 15 feet of water. Channel catfish can be caught using liver or dip baits.

**Icaria** (Adams): Channel catfish are being caught using liver or dip baits.

**Viking** (Montgomery): Crappie fishing is slow; fish in 6 to 8 feet of water around structure using a small jig or minnow and bobber. Largemouth bass fishing is fair using plastic baits with a slow retrieve. Channel catfish are being caught using liver and stink bait in early morning and late evening.

**Cold Springs** (Cass): Channel catfish are being caught using liver. Crappie fishing has slowed. Try fishing around sunken trees. Bluegills are being caught around structure with small jigs.

**Manawa** (Pottawattamie): Channel catfish is fair using stink bait and liver on Boy Scout Island and the north shore. Walleyes have slowed but a few are being caught along west shore in evening drifting night crawlers. Warm water temperature has slowed fishing.

**Orient** (Adair): Fishing is slow for 7 to 8-inch crappies drifting jigs and minnows. Channel catfish are being caught using liver early in morning and late afternoon. Bluegills are slow, but are still being caught drifting night crawlers.

**Mormon Trail** (Adair): Channel catfishing is good using liver or minnows in the evening. A few bluegills are being caught drifting jigs tipped with worms. Largemouth bass are being caught around structure.

**Greenfield** (Adair): Bluegill fishing is fair drifting a jig tipped with night crawler. Largemouth bass fishing is fair using spinner baits. Catfish is fair using liver.

**Littlefield** (Audubon): Bluegill fishing is slow. Try drifting a night crawler in 4 to 5 feet of water. Crappie fishing has slowed but some are still being caught using minnows and bobbers. Most crappies are 10 inches. Channel catfishing is fair using prepared dip bait and liver close to shore in rocks.

**Prairie Rose** (Shelby): Crappies and bluegill are slow, but can still be caught along rocky shorelines. Channel catfish are being caught in evening using dead minnows or liver. Largemouth bass fishing is fair using crankbaits and plastic worms.

**DeSoto Bend** (Harrison): Walleye fishing is slow, but walleyes are being caught jigging minnows around brush piles and trolling crankbaits in evening in 6 to 8 feet of water. Channel catfish are being caught using liver in the evening.

**Willow** (Harrison): Bluegills are being caught using worms. Channel catfish are good fishing in the evening using liver.

**Don Williams** (Boone): Channel catfish fishing has been excellent using chicken liver and night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair using top-water lures and bluegill fishing has been fair on worms.

**Hickory Grove** (Story): Channel catfish fishing has fair using chicken liver. Bluegill fishing is slow with worms/bobbers the best combination. Largemouth bass fishing has been slow with larger fish caught in deeper water.

**Rock Creek** (Jasper): Channel catfish fishing has been good using worms and/or chicken liver. Crappie fishing has been fair using jigs and minnows in deeper water. Largemouth bass have been biting on top-water lures.

**Big Creek** (Polk): Bluegill fishing has been good with worms. Channel catfish fishing has been good, particularly at night, with some nice-sized fish in the lake.

**Easter Lake** (Polk): Channel catfish fishing has been fair using worms and/or chicken liver. Crappie fishing has been slow. Bluegill fishing has been slow. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair using plastic worms and top water lures.

**Saylorville Lake** (Polk): White bass fishing has been fair to good in various areas. Channel catfish fishing has been good, with the best areas north of the mile-long bridge.

**Below Saylorville Dam** (Polk): White bass fishing has been good using jigs and/or minnows. Anglers are catching some walleye in addition to the white bass. Fishing has been good along Cottonwood access downstream from the dam. Channel catfish fishing has been good in the slower water.

**Lake Red Rock** (Marion): Channel catfish fishing has been slow using traditional baits, with the better areas in the upper portions of the reservoir. Crappie fishing has been slow, although some nice sized fish are being taken with jigs and minnows. White bass fishing has been slow, but should improve with the warmer weather.

**Below Lake Red Rock** (Marion): Anglers report white bass fishing has been good using jigs and jigs and minnows in the tailwater area. Channel catfish fishing has been good.

**Roberts Creek** (Marion): Channel catfish fishing has been fair near the outlet using traditional baits.

**Lake Ahquabi** (Warren): Channel catfish fishing has been good using chicken liver, night crawlers and stink bait. Largemouth bass fishing has been slow using plastic worms and spinner lures and most bass have been shorter than the legal length limit. Bluegill fishing has been slow with most fish taken on worms and waxworks.

**Hooper Lake** (Warren): Channel catfish fishing has been fair using chicken liver and stink bait. Largemouth bass fishing has been slow using plastic worms and spinner lures. Bluegill fishing has been slow using worms and bobbers around structure.

**For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

### **Southeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19:** Fishing on the Mississippi River **Pools 16 to 19** has been fair for anglers that have endured the warm temperatures. At the gauging station on **Pool 16** (near Muscatine) the water temperature is 86 degrees and the river pool stage is 11.39 feet and is expected to drop over the next several days. Fishing in **Pools 16 to 19** has been about the same as last week. Anglers have had a good year for catching channel catfish. Catfishing has been good throughout the Mississippi River and near the mouth of tributary streams and rivers, and near drift piles. Channel catfish have been biting on a variety of bait. Flathead fishing continues to be fair. Try using live baits such as larger chubs and suckers for flatheads. Flatheads are typically found around drift piles, rocks and deeper holes and are most active in the evening or at night. Bluegill fishing continues to be fair in all accessible backwaters on red worms, worms, wax worms, and small jigs and bobber rigs. Anglers are picking up a few crappies in the backwaters.

**Lake Darling** (Washington): Catfish are biting on chicken liver and stink baits in the early mornings and late evenings. Don't be surprised to catch some flatheads around the riprap if you are using live bait. They are in shallow feeding on bluegills.

**Lake Geode** (Henry): Catfishing has been good in the evenings around the drop-offs in the shallow bays using chicken liver. Anglers are still picking up a few bluegills trolling over the ledges and the edges of the weed beds.

**Lake Belva Deer** (Keokuk): Bluegill fishing has slowed, but anglers are still finding fish in 10 to 15 feet of water above the creek channel. Catfishing has been good to excellent on chicken liver.

**Lake Rathbun** (Appanoose): Walleyes are still hitting on night crawler rigs and crankbaits along underwater structure. Crappies are hitting small jigs fished in deep water. Channel catfish have been biting on liver and stink bait in the mornings and evenings.

**Lake Hawthorn** (Mahaska): Channel catfish are biting on liver and night crawlers. Crappies are hitting small jigs fished in deep water.

**Lake Sugema** (Van Buren): Bluegills have been hitting on small jigs fished around structure. Largemouth bass have been hitting on crankbaits and spinner baits.

**Lake Wapello** (Davis): Channel catfish have been biting on stink bait and liver. Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial presentations.

**Diamond Lake** (Poweshiek): Lots of channel catfish are being caught, especially the one pound size, on numerous baits including night crawlers, stink bait and cut bait. Some bluegills and crappies are being caught on small jigs and wax worms in deeper water.

**Kent Park** (Johnson): Channel catfish can be caught on liver, night crawlers and stink bait. Bluegill and bass fishing has been fair on a variety of baits and lures.

**Hannan Lake** (Benton): Once again, catfish are biting on night crawlers and liver. Largemouth bass are being caught on many types of artificial lures and on night crawlers.

**Union Grove** (Tama): Crappies continue to be caught by anglers drifting or slow trolling the main lake. Channel catfish can be taken on liver or night crawlers.

**Lake Macbride** (Johnson): Bluegills remain in the shallows and are willing to bite on small jigs or worms. Channel catfish are being taken in the slightly deeper, rocky areas on liver.

**Rodgers Lake** (Benton): Try livers, night crawlers or stink bait for channel catfish.

**For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.**

### **Northeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15:** Water level in the tailwater at Lansing is 8.33 feet and stable. Guttenberg on Monday morning was at 5.33 feet and forecasted to fall slightly over the next few days. Bellevue was 5.3 feet and falling. The water temperature is 86 degrees at Guttenberg and 85 degrees at Bellevue. Fishing has picked up on the Mississippi over the last few days.

Walleye fishing is good in **Pools 9 to 11** for anglers trolling crankbaits and three-ways tipped with a night crawler or leech along the wing dams and side sloughs. Better walleye fishing can be found in Minnesota Slough (**Pool 9**) and Wyalusing Slough (**Pool 10**). Bluegills are being taken in flowing backwater sloughs in **Pools 9 to 11**. Concentrate around snags with some depth around them. Float a piece of night crawler under a bobber or use an ice fishing jig tipped with a wax worm along the woody debris. Some bluegills are also being caught along the main channel in areas out of the current. Fish the side pockets or eddies where the current isn't as strong, or float a piece of night crawler off the bottom in front of wing dams for bluegills.

There are reports of crappies being caught around the Prairie du Chien area in **Pool 10** on the Wisconsin side of the river and a few are also being caught in **Pools 12 to 15**. Fish for crappies in the backwater sloughs where current flows along some woody structure and cast a jig tipped with a minnow. Deeper backwater lakes can also produce some excellent crappie fishing. Try floating a minnow under a slip bobber in the deepwater areas with little or no current and fish next to woody structure.

Fishing for freshwater drum (sheephead) has been good to excellent in **Pools 9 to 15**. Use a night crawler and fish off the bottom in front of wing dams and or sand flats off the main channel. The tailwater areas below the locks and dams have also been producing excellent sheephead fishing and some are being caught in the side sloughs. When fishing the tailwater areas for drum, jig a minnow or blade bait off the bottom.

Channel catfishing has been good to excellent in **Pools 9 to 15**. Anglers are using stink baits and night crawlers fished on the bottom along the main channel or back in the side sloughs. When fishing for catfish, be ready to move if you don't have a bite within the first 15 minutes—although, that is good advice for all types of fish.

With the high water temperatures, high concentrations of northern pike can be found around springs and creeks that flow into the river in **Pools 9 to 11**. Try casting a white spinner bait or white plastic worm around the mouths of these cooler water areas to catch pike.

Largemouth bass fishing is good in Sny Magill (**Pool 10**). Fishing a spinner bait or buzz bait around submerged vegetation has been effective. Anglers throwing soft



plastics around woody structure are also catching fish. During mid-day, try fishing a frog in areas like Bussey Lake (**Pool 10**) with large weed and algae beds.

With the river reaching its summer levels, smallmouth bass start concentrating around areas with flowing water. The spillway in Guttenberg and Harper's Ferry has been producing some nice bass as well as the wing dam areas in **Pools 9 to 11**. When fishing around rocky shorelines, try throwing some shallow to medium diving crankbaits or in-line spinner baits fished parallel to the bank. During mid-day, try fishing areas like Bussey Lake (**Pool 10**) with large weed and algae beds with a frog for largemouth bass.

Good white bass fishing is being reported in **Pools 9 to 15**. Fish the tailwater areas below the dams or rocky areas such as wing dams and rip rapped shorelines using small spinner baits or jigs thrown into the current.

**Cedar River** (Floyd and Mitchell): Walleye are biting on brightly colored jigs tipped with a piece of night crawler. Channel catfish are hitting medium-size chubs and cut baits.

**Cedar River** (Black Hawk): Channel catfish are biting on chicken liver and prepared baits (stink baits) fished in the early morning or after sunset hours. Some anglers are catching a few walleye.

**Maquoketa River** (Delaware and Jones): Fishing for channel catfish is good using chicken liver around snags.

**Shell Rock River** (Floyd): Northern pike are hitting spoons, large minnows and chubs.

**Turkey River** (Fayette and Howard): Smallmouth bass are hitting crankbaits and dark-colored jigs.

**Wapsipinicon River** (Buchanan): Channel catfish are biting on chicken liver and night crawlers. Anglers are catching a few walleye on jig and night crawler combinations.

**Casey Lake** (Tama): Channel catfish are biting on chicken liver as well as a variety of other baits fished during the evening hours. Anglers are also catching and releasing a lot of 12 to 16-inch largemouth bass on crankbaits and rubber worms. There is an 18-inch length limit for bass in Casey Lake.

**Big Woods and George Wyth lakes** (Black Hawk): Channel catfish are biting on chicken liver and stink baits.

**Lake Meyer** (Winneshiek): Channel catfish are biting on cut baits or a gob of worms. Bluegill fishing is fair on a piece of night crawler fished under a bobber next to structure.

**Lake Hendricks** (Howard): Bluegill fishing is fair to good on a piece of night crawler fished under a bobber next to the weed edges. Largemouth bass are hitting top-water lures and crankbaits fished along the weed lines in the early morning and late evening hours.

**Trout Streams:** During July and August when stocking on the marginal coldwater streams is postponed until cooler September temperatures return, streams such as **Grannis Creek** and **Glovers Creek** receive additional stocked trout. During July and August, both Grannis and Glovers are stocked with catchable-size trout twice per week with one stocking *announced* and one weekly stocking *unannounced*. Both Grannis and Glovers are great places to bring the whole family. Glovers Creek is located in Echo Valley Park near West Union. As you are entering Echo Valley Park, take the road to the

left and follow it to the bottom of the hill. (Note: if you go to the right it will take you to Otter Creek and camping sites). You can fish either upstream or downstream from the parking area on Glovers. The area upstream of the parking lot is newly acquired public land. In addition to trout fishing, there are numerous things to discover at Echo Valley including the narrow backbone ridge which separates the two streams, the Jensen hiking trail, and camping.

**Grannis Creek** is located west of Wadena. The area to fish includes two separate public areas that are connected by a large tract of privately owned land, which is open to public fishing. Public fishing is also allowed above the upper public area where it is posted for public use. Some stream bank stabilization work has been conducted on the upper public area. Stream habitat work on the private land has resulted in excellent areas to fish throughout the entire stretch. The private land is most easily accessible from the lower public area. Please respect both the public and private land by not leaving your trash behind.

The river level on the **Turkey River** at Big Spring has dropped again to wadeable conditions. As summer temperatures once again rise, trout will concentrate below the coldwater spring outlets adjacent to the hatchery. For current trout stocking information, contact the Iowa DNR at 563-927-5736 or go on-line at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) and check the fisheries web pages to view the 2005 stocking calendar.

**For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.**

### **Northwest**

**Spirit Lake (Dickinson):** Walleye fishing is fair using night crawlers and leeches in 18 to 22 feet of water. Anglers are also catching fish trolling crankbaits in the basin. Sorting is required for keeper sized fish.

**West Okoboji Lake (Dickinson):** Bluegills are being caught on the weed lines in 20 to 25 feet of water using jigs tipped with small leeches or worms.

**Silver Lake (Dickinson):** Channel catfish fishing is good in the early mornings, the evenings and after dark around submerged brush piles using traditional catfish baits or cut baits.

**Black Hawk Lake (Sac):** Channel catfish fishing is good using minnows, especially under the inlet bridge. Bullhead fishing is fair to good throughout the lake.

**Raccoon River (Sac):** Channel catfish fishing is fair using night crawlers or stink bait.

**Yellow Smoke Lake (Crawford):** Bluegills are good fishing in the timbers using small red and white lead-heads. Channel catfish are fair using chicken liver.

**Storm Lake (Buena Vista):** Channel catfish fishing is good drifting with shrimp.

**Linn Grove Dam, on the Little Sioux (Buena Vista):** Channel catfish fishing is fair for larger fish. Use chubs or stink bait.

**Brushy Creek (Webster):** Fishing remains slow. The water is warm and fish have moved into deeper water. Anglers are catching a lot of bass and are reminded Brushy Creek has a 15-inch minimum length limit on bass.

**Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo):** Channel catfish are hitting on night crawlers, minnows and chicken liver. Fish around the rock reefs and vegetation beds for the best catfish action. Bullheads are hitting on night crawlers fished on the bottom.

**Beeds Lake** (Franklin): Anglers are catching 7 to 10-inch crappies by trolling or drift fishing small jigs and minnows. Bluegills are being caught around the shoreline on small pieces of night crawler.

**Interstate Park Pond** (Franklin): Crappies are being caught using small jigs and minnows and drift fishing for suspended fish.

**Little Wall Lake** (Hamilton): Channel catfish are hitting on stink bait. Largemouth bass fishing is fair. Use spinners and plastics.

**Briggs Woods Lake** (Hamilton): Largemouth bass are being caught on spinner baits and rubber worms. Bluegills are hitting on small jigs and minnows.

**Boone River** (Hamilton): Smallmouth bass are hitting on crankbaits and live bait.

**Crystal Lake** (Hancock): Channel catfish are hitting on stink bait.

**For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.**

###